



February 7, 2008

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Kathi Wiederhold

Subject: Item 4.h – Title VI Training

**Action Recommended: Information only and scheduling.**

**Background**

MPO staff is scheduling a Title VI Training for staff, the Citizen Advisory Committee, and the Metropolitan Policy Committee. This training responds in part to a recommendation in the Central Lane MPO's most recent certification review conducted by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration in May 2007. The review recommended that the MPO provide Title VI training and continue to develop a Title VI Plan (Environmental Justice).

**Title VI and Environmental Justice**

Title VI is a section of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Environmental justice is a federal term that means carrying out the provisions of Title VI. The following two quotes from *Environmental Justice and Transportation, A Citizen's Handbook* (Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California Berkeley) help explain how this relates to regional transportation planning – the work of the MPO.

“State and local transportation agencies have a legal obligation to prevent discrimination and to protect the environment through their plans and programs.”

“Environmental justice is an increasingly important element of policy making in transportation. It is not specific to any mode of transportation, particular community, or single policy issue. It is fundamentally about fairness toward the disadvantaged and often addresses the exclusion of racial and ethnic minorities from decision making. The federal government has identified environmental justice as an important goal in transportation, and local and regional governments must incorporate environmental justice into transportation programs.”

**Scheduling Title VI Training**

We are planning two 2-hour trainings on March 5, 2008, that generally will cover mostly the same material, but will be slightly different in focus to target different audiences. The afternoon training will be primarily for staff. The evening training will be primarily for the Citizen Advisory Committee and the MPC. All will be welcome to attend either or

both. Exact times for the training have not been set, but the aim is to schedule the evening session at 6:00 with the preferred location at the Eugene Public Library.

The trainers will be Ginny Tsu, Federal Highway Administration, Oregon Division Office, and Janet Sharp, Title VI/Environmental Justice Officer, Oregon Department of Transportation.

The CAC officers have requested that CAC members attend the training if at all possible because it will provide an essential briefing to prepare the CAC to deal with Title VI as a major CAC work item for the next several months. Initially, the CAC will be asked to make recommendations to the Metropolitan Policy Committee for a work program and schedule to develop a Title VI Plan for the Central Lane MPO. Pending MPC direction, the CAC will then engage in the development of the actual draft plan.